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REQUEST FOR

CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

| Application Number | 09/497,937 | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Filing Date | February 4, 2000 | |
| First Named Inventor | Winston J. Thomas, et al. | |
| Group Art Unit | 1644 | |
| Examiner Name | J. A. Goldberg | |
| Attorney Docket No. | 8907-087-999 | |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 Previously submitted Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on July 14, 2004 i. (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered). ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed iii. Enclosed 09/16/2004 SSESHE1 00000005 503013 i. Amendment/Reply 770.00 DA ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) iv. Other Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) Other Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Jones Day Deposit Account No. \boxtimes a. 50-3013: i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e), estimated to be \$ 770.00 \boxtimes Extension of time fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17, estimated to be \$ 420.00 for a two (2) month extension, ii. \boxtimes the request for which is being made herewith Other iii. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED Roger C. Rich Name (Print/Type) Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 54,398 For: Nikolaos C. George (Reg. No. 39,201) O Nich Signature September 13, 2004 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or by facsimile transmitted to fax no. 1-703to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below. Name (Print/Type) Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) Signature Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

CAJD: 505102.1